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GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,  
January 5, 1848.*

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication for general information of the Annual Reports of the Protectors of Natives for the Districts of Perth and York, for the year 1847.

*By His Excellency's command,*  
G. F. MOORE,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

*Perth, January 1, 1848.*

Sir,—I have the honor to forward my Annual Report for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

During this period the districts under my supervision have been more than usually free from any acts of aggression on the part of the Aborigines, the necessary consequence of their increasing intercourse with the settlers, their greater knowledge of our police regulations, and perfect conviction of our physical superiority.

In the Southwestern District I believe that illegal acts will for the future be of still rarer occurrence, as they will be more promptly and effectually checked by means of the additional force now at the disposal of the chief constable of police in the recent appointment of an effective assistant.

On my last visit to Port Augusta, I was happy to find that the rumoured acts of aggression on the property of the sole family inhabiting that district, were almost solely without foundation. In fact, Mr. Turner's establishment is chiefly dependant on the assistance and good offices of the natives, and a most friendly intercourse consequently exists between the two parties. That petty depredations do occasionally occur, I will not deny, but I am confident that less serious annoyances at the hands of the native population are incurred by the unprotected family at Port Augusta (isolated by a space of more than sixty miles from the nearest settlement), than by the majority of the inhabitants in the more densely peopled districts—a fact creditable alike to the white man and his uncivilized neighbor. On a visit still more recently made to Augusta, the police report was equally favorable.

At the Fremantle Native School, or at the establishment at Galilalup, near Perth, no change worthy of remark has occurred. At the latter place the lads are working steadily, nor for the last twelvemonths have any of them evinced an inclination to abscond to the bush.

I deeply regret the avowed necessity on

the part of the Government for the withdrawal of more than a moiety of the small annual stipend (£75) allowed in aid of the above Institution. I call it small when compared with the sum (averaging £300) annually expended for the same purpose by the Wesleyan Society, and I regret this the more from the probable impression it may occasion in the minds of our Wesleyan and Church of England friends of our lukewarmness in the cause of native civilization.

I trust that the recent appointment of our late Native Interpreter Mr. F. F. Armstrong as moral agent or Instructor of the prisoners at Rottnest will be productive of all the advantages contemplated by the christian and philanthropic views of His Excellency. I know no person so peculiarly fitted for such an appointment as the individual above named. Mr. Armstrong's duties embracing also those of storekeeper and accountant, will thus enable the Superintendent, on whom these previously devolved, to devote his whole time and energies to his more legitimate department.

I am happy to inform his Excellency of my entire approval hitherto of Mr R. Hester, the police constable for the town of Perth and its vicinity, who succeeded on the promotion of Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Hester's acquaintance with the general habits and language of the aborigines well qualify him for the appointment.

The experiment of removing a few of the native convicts from Rottnest, for the purpose of employing them on the roads or other public works, has been a short time in operation, and been hitherto eminently successful. The change of scene and superintendence, together with their ability to see and occasionally converse with their friends and relatives, have exercised a most beneficial influence on these men, who enjoy the same liberty while at work as the gang of white prisoners, and perform their tasks with much industry and cheerfulness. The superintendent speaks highly of their docility and uniform good conduct. We must not however be induced by this partial success to overlook the great probability of occasional failure and disappointment, when the above system is more extensively carried out. Frequent, nay daily opportunities of escape to the bush, if desired, will not be wanting, and as the example would be contagious, and strike at the very root of our projected system, every possible precaution should be adopted at the outset to prevent the oc-

currence of such an event. I should therefore recommend that, at least until the system has been fairly tested, none but prisoners sentenced to comparatively short terms of imprisonment, be removed to the mainland, and that in all cases such removal be considered as a reward for good conduct while on the island. Previous to his leaving Rottneest, the certainty of immediate pursuit and apprehension in all cases of escape, and withdrawal of all indulgence on his return to the island, should be forcibly impressed on the mind of each prisoner. I should further recommend that no convict be permitted to work on the mainland until he has completed such a term of apprenticeship under the superintendent of Rottneest as will not only have qualified him for the tasks allotted to him, but have induced him to regard his removal thence as a boon conferred for good conduct; thereby in some degree neutralizing the probability of his absconding to the bush.

Before closing my report I beg to offer a few remarks on the subject of the premium offered by the Government, of a remission of £18 in the purchase of land to such settlers as may have redeemed aboriginal natives of either sex from the habits of savage life, and instructed them in the knowledge of agricultural or other occupations. The Government Notice to this effect was issued in June 1841, since which period 10 applications only have been granted, although numerous others have been sent in and disallowed. Of the above 10, but one individual has availed himself of the remission premium, the remainder to their mortification discovered that their claim, although allowed, was only a remission of 18 acres (equivalent to £18) in the purchase of 160 acres (£160) that being the minimum quantity of land allowed to be put up for sale by the Government. A premium clogged by such a heavy incumbrance, was not likely to be readily claimed by parties, who, I have every reason to believe, were mostly ignorant of the exact meaning of the Government Regulation. Hence arose a general feeling of dissatisfaction; the Government were accused of holding out advantages which were merely nominal; which in most cases could never be realised; and which, when realised, were of little or no value. As I believe (in which opinion I am supported by my coadjutor Mr Bland) that no settler ever took into his service an aboriginal native from the sole motive of eventually claiming the Government premium, so consequently, the withdrawal of the said premium would, I believe in no wise affect the present steadily advancing civilization of the native tribes by the employment eagerly offered to them by the settlers, as herdsmen and humble assistants in the multifarious occupations of a farm. Being firmly convinced of this fact, and of the utter worthlessness in the eyes of the settlers generally, of the premium in its present form, and especially desirous of ceasing to be the circulating medium be-

tween the Government and the settlers on this vexatious topic, I earnestly beg to suggest to His Excellency the expediency of at once rescinding the notice, and thereby allowing the subject of employment and consequent civilization of the aborigines, to rest upon its own merits and the self-interest of the settlers.

Ere finally dismissing this subject, and at the risk of being considered prolix, I beg to subjoin a short extract from the letter of a highly respectable inhabitant of the Guildford district, relative to four native lads, on whose account claims for the Government remission have been allowed to the writer and his brothers, but of which they have never availed themselves, from inability to purchase the residue of the minimum quantity of land required by the regulations:—

“The native lads for whom myself and brothers obtained remission tickets, have not taken to the bush, but are still in the employment of the settlers. *Morrel* is with my brother, at the farm as a monthly servant. He is sometimes employed as carter. He has been sheep-shearing, hay-making, and is now reaping wheat. *Meg-gat* still continues with my brother *Jonathan*, and is a very useful and trusty lad. *Mandal* is a monthly servant on the Middle Swan, at £1 per month and his board. He is as clever and trustworthy with a team as any white lad, and goes alone with the cart from the Swan to the York and Northam districts, returning with a load. He said only a few days since, that he intends remaining with his present employer until he saves a little money to purchase a few tools and clothes, when he proposes coming to Guildford, to live on the grant which Governor Hutt gave him, building a house, making a garden, and living like the white men do. *Carbyne*, (the 4th lad) resides in the Canning district, and is generally in the employ of the settlers as a shepherd and stockkeeper (his relatives not allowing him to remain in the Guildford district after he had fulfilled his engagement with my brother).

As to the remission tickets, they are of little or no value, and my opinion is that no settler (on account of the premium offered by the Government) will be induced to take any further pains with the Natives, or endeavour to civilize them.”

His Excellency may be assured that similar instances to the above, are not of unfrequent occurrence, affording equal proofs of the progress of native civilization, and of the inefficient working of the present system of rewards adopted by the Government.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES SYMMONS,

Protector of Natives.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Yorh, Dec. 21, 1847.

Sir.—I have the honor to submit to His Excellency the Governor, my annual

Report as protector of Natives, and in doing so, it affords me much satisfaction in being able to report favorably of the continuance of amicable relations, which have for some years subsisted between the Aborigine and the Settlers.

A considerable number of complaints for sheep stealing, robbing shepherds huts, and such like offences have been made before me during the past year, and the greater part of these offenders are now in Jail, awaiting their trial at the next Sessions.

The number of cases of this description, may be accounted for, partly from the European population following Pastoral pursuits, being scattered over a wide range of country, bringing them continually into contact with fresh tribes, the scarcity and consequent high rate of Labor, preventing the settlers employing sufficient hands to protect their property, and also from the Police force at my disposal being insufficient for the duty required of it, in so extensive a district, many of the minor class of offenders are consequently unpunished, and so long a time frequently elapses between the issuing of a warrant and the apprehension of the offender, as emboldens them to commit other offences and makes them more difficult to apprehend. I take this opportunity of testifying to the valuable services of Mr Drummond, chief constable of police, in apprehending offenders, but the range of country he has to travel over, is much too extensive for the efficient performance of his duties.

I beg therefore to urge upon His Excellency the necessity of augmenting this force to a sufficient extent to enable me to establish a Patrol, that every settler's station may be visited at regular and short intervals, by this means a constant watch may be kept upon the movements of the Natives, and thus act as a preventive as well as a detective force.

I trust that Her Majesty's Government will accede to the recommendation of the committee of Legislative Council, and allow an extension of the summary jurisdiction of Magistrates, as regards Native offenders, and as far as practicable have them punished for minor offences, in the

district where the offence has been committed.

I have cautioned the natives against having recourse to their old habits of firing the grass in this District, a practice which puts the settlers to much inconvenience, this caution and an occasional committal for the offence, under the Act of Council, will, I have no doubt be the means of partially checking the evil, though it will be impossible wholly to prevent it. And in justice to the natives I must say that many of the fires, said to originate with them, are caused by the carelessness of settlers and their servants,

It is very satisfactory to notice that a good many Native boys are in the employ of settlers, and from the scarcity of Labor they have been of great service on many farms in assisting to gather the present harvest.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
R. H. BLAND,  
Protector of Natives, York.  
The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth*  
January 12, 1848.

Tenders will be received at this Office up to 12 o'clock on Tuesday, the 1st February next for supplying the Colonial Hospital and Jail, Perth, with Fresh Meat for twelve months.

*By His Excellency's command,*  
G. F. MOORE.  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth*  
January 14, 1848.

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified for general information, that H.M.C.S. *Champion* will sail for Singapore on Thursday, the 20th instant.

*By His Excellency's command,*  
G. F. MOORE.  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

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